

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for renting a construction machine, comprising the steps of:

causing a network server to hold basic information including specification information comprising equipment information, rental situation and location of a construction machine for rent, wherein said specification information comprises a hierarchical structure identifying a class of specification information as specification that is not easy to change and a class of specification information as specification that is easy to change;

causing a person seeking a rental service of a construction machine to input specification information including specification of a construction machine of his choice, rental period information including a rental period of his choice, and rental place information including a rental place of his choice when the person gets access to said network;

causing said network server to search with information including the specification, the rental period and the rental place input by the person as search items, for information related to a rentable construction machine on the basis of the basic information including the specification, the rental situation and the location held by the network server, wherein said network server performs said search using said specification information as specification that is not easy to change as an essential search item, and using said class of specification information as specification that is easy to change as an equivocal search item; and

providing the person with a searched result by the network server.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1 wherein said network server searches for information related to the rentable construction machines in favor of the rental place information.

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 2 wherein said network server carries out an equivocal search, after having searched in favor of the rental place information, with respect to the specification information or the rental period information.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1 wherein said rental place information comprises a hierarchical structure comprising ~~an upper~~ location information showing a wider geographical area ~~as an upper class~~ and a ~~lower location~~ ~~information showing~~ a narrower geographical area ~~as a lower class~~, and the network server searches for information related to the rentable construction machine with the wider area ~~upper location~~ information as an essential search item and the narrower area ~~lower location~~ information as an equivocal search item

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to claim 1 wherein said construction machine for rent is a tracklaying construction machine.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to claim 1 wherein said network server searches for information related to the rentable construction machine in favor of the specification information.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to claim 1 wherein said network server searches for information related to the rentable construction machine in favor of the rental period information.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 1 wherein said network server searches for information related to the rentable construction machine in favor of one selected out of at least two items out of the specification, the rental period or the rental place of his choice.

Claim 10 (Original): The method according to claim 1 wherein said network server provides the person with the information related to the rentable construction machine as a list including information related to the location of the construction machine for rent.

Claim 11 (Original): The method according to claim 1 wherein said network server provides the person with the information related to the rentable construction machine as a calendar including information related to the rental situation of the construction machine for rent.

Claim 12 (Original): The method according to claim 1 wherein in a case where information related to the rentable construction machine cannot be searched, said network server provides information related to the rentable construction machine owned by a holder of said network server to the person.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method for renting a construction machine from a person who desires to rent the construction machine to a person who desires to receive rental through a network, characterized in that a network server is allowed to hold at least information related to specification comprising equipment information, a rental situation, a location of a construction machine for rent, the specification information comprising a

hierarchical structure identifying a class of specification information as specification that is not easy to change and a class of specification information as specification that is easy to change, and when the person who desires to receive rental gets access to said network, at least information related to specification of a construction machine of his hope, information related to a rental period of his hope and information related to a rental place of his hope are input, and said network server searches, with information related to the specification, the rental period and the rental place input by the person who desires to receive rental as search items, for information related to a rentable construction machine on the basis of information related to the specification, the rental situation and the location held by the network server to provide a searched result to the person who desires to receive rental, wherein said network server performs said search using said class of specification information as specification that is not easy to change as an essential search item, and using said class of specification information as specification that is easy to change as an equivocal search item.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A system for renting a construction machine through a network, comprising: a network server [[for]] holding basic information including specification comprising equipment information, a rental situation, and a location of a construction machine for rent; the specification information comprising a hierarchical structure identifying a class of specification information as specification that is not easy to change and a class of specification information as specification that is easy to change, and a network terminal for causing a person seeking a rental service of a construction machine capable of inputting, when the person gets access to the network, basic information related to specification of a construction machine of his choice, a rental period of his choice and a rental place of his choice, wherein said network server searches, with information related to the specification, the rental period and the rental place input by the person, for information

related to a rentable construction machine on the basis of the information related to the specification, the rental situation and the location held by the network server to provide a searched result to the person, wherein said network server performs said search using said class of specification information as specification that is not easy to change as an essential search item, and using said class of specification information as specification that is easy to change as an equivocal search item.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A system for renting a construction machine through a network, comprising:

a network server [for] holding basic information related to specification comprising equipment information, a rental situation and a location of a construction machine for rent, the specification information comprising a hierarchical structure identifying a class of specification information as specification that is not easy to change and a class of specification information as specification that is easy to change, said network server searching with information including specification, a rental period and a rental place of a construction machine of which a person seeking a rental service input by a network terminal as search items, for information related to a rentable construction machine on the basis of the basic information related to the specification, the rental situation and the location held by said network server to provide a searched result to the network terminal, wherein said network server performs said search using said class of specification information as specification that is not easy to change as an essential search item, and using said class of specification information as specification that is easy to change as an equivocal search item.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A system for renting a construction machine through a network, comprising:

a network terminal [[for]] causing a person seeking a rental service of a construction machine capable of inputting information comprising equipment information related to specification of a construction machine of his choice, a rental period of his choice and a rental place of his choice, the specification information comprising a hierarchical structure identifying a class of specification information as specification that is not easy to change and a class of specification information as specification that is easy to change, said network terminal allowing a network server to search with information related to the specification, the rental period and the rental place input by the person as search items, for information related to a rentable construction machine on the basis of information related to specification, a rental situation and a location of a construction machine for rent held by the network server, to provide a searched result to the person through said network terminal, wherein said network server performs said search using said class of specification information as specification that is not easy to change as an essential search item, and using said class of specification information as specification that is easy to change as an equivocal search item.